

RELIVING

The Rochester Era

November/December

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

Responses to “Sense of Place” Presentation



Keep Paint Creek Clear and Natural

After the October 2nd Brown Bag presentation, “A Sense of Place” the following audience members turned in written responses to the prompt: What would you keep and What would you add — to Rochester. If cities could make a list for Santa, this might well be it.

What to Keep

Pat Bracewell

What to keep, Home Bakery, forever! Band concerts in the park!

Mary Howarth

Rochester Hills Museum, Municipal Park, Yates Cider Mill, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, Mt. Avon Cemetery

Ginger Ketelsen

Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, Municipal Park – Howlett Park, Community House, PCCA Building, Historic Homes and Business Buildings, Old/ Historic Trees, Memorial Rock on Second St

What to Add

Ginger Ketelsen

We need statues! Have you ever seen Mesa, AZ? Also, a mural along the river walk under the Main St. bridge would be a nice addition. They have examples in San Antonio which could be Googled. A compilation of Gerry Post's wonderful historical scenes would be very appropriate. PCCA students could do the replication.

Ann Peterson

I would like to see a mini Campus Martius downtown with a fountain and band shell area with a sitting area for people to enjoy lunch, visit with friends or just take a break. In such a place vendors can display art and perhaps sell food, perhaps from local restaurants (close to downtown). I would like us to have a visitor's center downtown where we can rent bikes, display history and have our residents tell visitors about the city.

Susan Wilson

Save our historic downtown buildings — but also save our older and historic homes.

Add Art . . .

Paddington Bear Statue resides at Padding Station, London, England. Children like to be photographed with Paddington, which makes him interactive art.



Commuters, with briefcases and umbrellas, give Paddington a good luck pat on their way to work, thereby giving Paddington his shiny nose.

**2014 Appraisal Day
Announcing
Our 21st Annual Appraisal Day!!
March 2nd, 2014**

See Page 2 for details — You won't want to miss this popular and fun event — Start planning now!

President's Message —

A cold day in Rochester - while it may have been a bit nippy the last few weeks, and you snow birds are ready to head to warmer climates – RAHS will keep the home fires burning while you are gone. I hope that in reading through the newsletter, you will find an activity, project or committee that suits you. Active participation is a nice way to meet new friends and to reacquaint with people we know. Team efforts are fun and often educational— there are so many to choose from — Happy Holidays to all



James Hopkins, RAHS President

Announcing the 21st Rochester-Avon Historical Society Appraisal Day —

The new year is just around the corner and with it is Rochester-Avon Historical Society's Antique Appraisal Day. Mark the date, Sunday, March 2, 2014, noon-4pm at the Rochester Community House. This will be the 21st year for this event. Every year it grows in popularity as more and more area residents bring in their treasures for appraisal.

If you have never attended an appraisal day, please stop by. If you have attended in the past, please come again. Let your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors know too. Our appraisers love being busy, answering your questions and hearing your stories. See you on March 2nd! * * *

With the new year, this event will see some changes. There will be more appraisers, which will help decrease waiting time. Folks bringing items will be asked to limit the number to 5-6 items. Note: A "coin collection" will be counted as one item. The same would apply to any "set" such as china or books.

As in previous years, there will be appraisers for furniture, lighting, clocks, toys, glassware, books, manuscripts, periodicals, coins, china, glass, pottery, collectibles, guns, military items, art: oil, prints, pastels, engravings, dolls, teddy bears, jewelry, Eastern art and much more.

Admission is FREE. Items appraised less than \$20 are FREE. Items appraised over \$20 are \$5 per item.

Look around your home, attic, garage and get ready to bring your special items to this fun event.

Contact Information for RAHS Board & Committees

RAHS Board of Directors

- James Hopkins, President 248-254-2520
- Brian Dunphy, Vice President 248-656-5968
- Mary Howarth, Treasurer 248-375-0206
- June Hopaluk, Recording Secretary. 248-652-9242
- Janet Potton, Corresponding Secretary 248-652-7296
- Leslie Mack, Member at Large 586-924-4961
- Carol Tough, Member at Large 248-375-0084
- Rod Wilson, Past President 248-651-6178

Appointed Board of Director Positions

- Gail Kemler, Historian 248-651-0907
- Dorothy Stratford, Membership Chair 248-652-8637
- Tiffany Dziurman Stozicki . PR 248-650-0415
- Bea Catherino, Rochester ERA Newsletter . 248-375-0808
- David Gifford. Media. 248-941-7587

Committee Chairpersons

- Deborah Larsen, Research 248-375-2974
- Janet Potton, Oral Histories 248-652-7296
- Internet Genealogy Group, unfilled for the moment
- Tiffany Dziurman. Stozicki, Rochester Heritage Days 248-651-6178
- Jim Hopkins, Rochester Heritage Days 248-254-2520
- Carol Tough, RAHS Appraisal day 248-375-0084
- Jim Hopkins, Sidewalk Sales Booth, 248-254-2520
- Jo Ann Bourez, Great Everything Sale 248-651-7526
- Cary Downer, Program Chair 248-652-1854
- Margaret Bartos, Program Chair 248-759-4768

A Few Good Women and Men Needed ? In Fact, Everyone Is Needed!

My personal reflection on being a good board member of Rochester Avon Historical Society is that we all improve by being involved in one or more of our various projects. I have been a board member in various capacities for a goodly number of years now. In order for this organization to continue to grow, however, we need the more involvement from more of our RAHS members. It is hoped that your gifts and talents are already being tapped, but if not – we do need you to become active in the Rochester Avon Historical Society. Each of you has talents and abilities that are needed to make Rochester-Avon Historical Society a much better organization – and a growing organization.

If you like to Communicate, we need you on the Oral History Committee, Fund-Raising, Distribution of Merchandise to Merchants, as a speaker at Brown Bag, Walking-Tour Guide, Cemetery Tour character, greeter at meetings, etc. Organizational Skills are needed to arrange volunteers for special events, assisting with special events, archiving, etc. If you are Computer Savvy, you can help out with Facebook, website content, creating mailings, newsletter articles, membership, etc. Salesmanship involves fund-raising, organizing manpower for Sidewalk Sales Booth, Heritage Day's Sales Booth, etc. If you like Paper Handling, you can work on mailing and circulation of the newsletter, correspondence, tracking archives and collections. Hospitality helps with refreshments at the Brown Bag, Annual Picnic, and Antique Appraisal Day. There are many events and committees throughout the year that may pique your interest: Antique Appraisal Day, Sidewalk Sales, Heritage Festival, Walking Tours, Cemetery Walk, Oral History, Theatre Restoration, Surrey Restoration, Wall Calendar and Publications, Merchandising, etc. If there is something you are interested in and don't see here, call one of our board members. There are great ideas that we haven't heard yet – and we fear you are being way too quiet!

We also have a lot of fun working together. Please join us in one or more of our projects and activities. See the Contact Information Box on page 2 to learn who is in charge of what and how to contact them.

We welcome Margaret Bartos to the board as our new Program Chairperson; she will be shadowing Cary Downer for the next few meetings and working on the remainder of this year's program calendar. We thank her for stepping up and joining in. We also welcome Dorothy Stratford to the board as our new Membership Chairperson. Dorothy is a quick learner, so will soon be off and running with her new position.

For a fun evening, join us at the Rochester Mills Brewery after our evening programs. You are welcome to join us where you will meet other interested persons – let's have the conversation.

Sincerely, Janet Potton, RAHS Corresponding Secretary

The Photo Mystery is Solved: (and now, we're moving on)

The Rochester Era editor and staff wish to thank Sharon Dodman for her generosity in emailing our newsletter to friends and Rochester High School classmates – about 400 of them! I hadn't realized our circulation was so large. Sharon keeps track of the Rochester High School classes of 1938-1980 & up. We will provide an article on Sharon's work in a later edition. Meanwhile, we at the Rochester Era have received a number of emails regarding the our last edition's miss-identification of Knapp's Dairy Bar on Main Street in a vintage photo. The photo was not of **Knapp's**, which set off a flurry of commentary via the internet. Here are some of the comments received:

Susan Wilson Writes:

I lived in the neighborhood and only remember Avon Dairy as having been a walk up window.

Penny Crissman Writes:

I know it was more than a window. I would walk inside and I do believe it was a sit down environment, but the picture did not ring a bell with me. I remember buying ice cream cones. I usually left with the cone, but I do remember sitting down to wait for it.

Gary Konczal Wrote:

... that his brother Conrad has an 8mm film he took of his buddies around 1950 – some of the footage, he believes was taken inside the Avon Dairy.

Another Writer

The photo might be Behm's Dairy? I remember there was a dairy bar on Main Street before Knapp's was built. I think it moved to Woodward and became Avon Dairy.

From a Phone Interview with Conrad Konczal, Sept. 10, 2013 – by the Era staff.

Conrad has an 8 mm film he took when movie cameras became available to the general public. He did indeed record his friends, but not necessarily at Avon Dairy on Woodward. We anticipate being able to see the film; it sounds like a historic treasure! How cool is that for a high school student to have a movie camera in 1950? We would like to see the film.

The Winner!!

The editorial staff at the ERA has determined that we should go with Penny Crissman's comment that Avon Dairy on Woodward in Rochester was originally a sit-down place. At some point, the seating was eliminated and the dairy did indeed become a walk-up-window service only.

Mystery photo is solved. Thank you everyone. We regret the confusion, but applaud the responses and help of our friends and readers.

Christmas Shopping at the D&C

by Mary Howarth —

When my now adult children were quite young, they did their first independent Christmas shopping at the D&C. We would discuss at home for whom they wanted to purchase gifts--and how much they might have to spend. Then we made a list – Mom, Dad, Grandmother, Bapa, Opa (and later the sibling). I would take them to the D&C and then off to one of the wonderful clerks who worked there. (I do wish I were better at remembering names, because two of the women were always so considerate of our shopping). I stood either outside at the rear door or just inside, depending on the weather. Anne, Adam or both would go with the clerk who helped them as they decided on their purchases. Once in awhile a suggestion was made as to the usefulness of an item, but the decision on the final purchase was always left to the children. (Interestingly, there were never inappropriate choices made – a result of the good shepherding of the D&C staff). There was the adding of prices and subtracting from the money on hand – done with paper and pencil, of course. Finally the decisions were made, the items placed in individual paper bags so mother wouldn't see them, and we would go to Knapp's Dairy for a milkshake to celebrate. This was a wonderful learning experience for the children, and one they still remember fondly. The D&C was “family” and my children felt very secure there. — **Please visit Writer/Historian Debbie Larsen's blog: Remembering Rochester for D&C history/discussion June , 2009** www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society (RAHS) was founded in 1969 to help preserve, collect and interpret the history of the greater Rochester area for present and future generations. For more information, including a list of upcoming events, visit online at www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/



D&C Store, NW Corner of Main and 4th Streets. — 1990s photo.

Speaker Line Up for the RAHS Lecture Series - First Thursdays

This General Meeting of RAHS is at Rochester Hills Public Library Auditorium — 7 to 8:45 p.m. — the public is invited to attend and it is free of charge. You may wish to join us after, at the Rochester Mills Beer Company for continued fellowship and lively discussion.

November 7th, 2012

Radford Jones - The Kennedy Detail, former Secret Service Agent , Jones has much to tell — don't miss this!

December 5th, 2012

Pat McKay - Rochester's Connection to the Civil War — McKay presents names & places & the Civil War's effects on the Rochester/Avon Township Community

The 2013 RAHS Public Meetings are as Follows:

Brown Bag Luncheon: First Tues. of the month: Talks by long-time area residents: Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, Sept, Oct., Dec. Noon to 1 p.m. Rochester Community House.

Evening Program: First Thurs. in Month: Guest Presenters: Various History Topics Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec. 7-8:45 p.m. Rochester Hills Public Library Auditorium. .

Orange & Clove Pomander Ball: After Dinner Craft & Conversation Project

As a tradition in our household after dinner, those of us who aren't watching football, clear the dining table and make a craft project. The Orange & Clove Pomander is one of our favorites: **Supplies: Fresh oranges; whole cloves, knitting needle/or skewer.** Poke holes in the orange using the skewer – experiment to get the right distance between holes. Push a clove stem-first into each hole. When finished, you might dust the pomander lightly with ground cinnamon, ginger or both. Let pomander air dry until gift wrapping time, then use squares of nylon net and thin ribbon to make a cover for the pomander with a loop for hanging. Other idea is to leave the pomander without net, but to put several of them into an antique crockery bowl with whole apples. The apples, will of course be eaten, but a pomander will last for a year or more, with a very pleasant scent. **Conversation:** Tell family stories, legends and traditions — a nice time to involve kids in history. **Hint:** Save \$\$, buy whole cloves in bulk. BVC

Retro Read: Better Homes & Gardens New Cook Book, 1996 page 193

GINGERSNAPS

PREP: 25 MINUTES BAKE: 8 MINUTES PER BATCH Oven 375°

- 2¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- ¾ cup shortening
- ¼ cup molasses
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ cup granulated sugar

1. In a large mixing bowl combine about *half* of the flour, brown sugar, shortening, molasses, egg, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon, and cloves. Beat with an electric mixer on medium to high speed till combined. Beat or stir in remaining flour.
2. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll balls in the granulated sugar to coat. Place balls 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake in a 375° oven for 8 to 10 minutes or till edges are set and tops are crackled. Cool cookies on cookie sheet for 1 minute. Transfer cookies to a wire rack and let cool. Makes about 48 cookies.

Better Homes & Gardens Cookbook, a nice gift.

Join the Rochester Avon Historical Society Today!

Bi-monthly newsletters-monthly meetings with guest speakers-downtown Rochester historical walking tours-monthly lunchtime talks by long-time area residents-oral history projects-book projects-research projects-and much more!

Rochester Avon Historical Society Membership Application

___ New ___ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

___ \$10 Student ___ \$18.00 Individual ___ \$25.00 Family ___ \$35.00 Contributing

___ \$75.00 Institution ___ \$250.00 Patron

Areas of Interest – How would you like to participate?

___ Historic Research ___ Genealogy Research ___ Special Project Volunteer

___ Antique Appraisal Day ___ Annual Picnic ___ Oral History ___ Historic Walking Tour Guide

___ Fundraising ___ Heritage Days ___ Sidewalk Sales ___ Refreshments at Meetings

___ Publications Other _____

Mail to: Rochester-Avon Historical Society, P.O. Box 80783, Rochester, MI 48308-0783

News of Work in Progress –

Hills Theatre Update

The Hills Theatre Committee continues to work on restoring the Hills Theatre on Main Street that was once such an important part of the community. The committee continues to work on collecting data, exploring funding, and working on the feasibility study. We come closer to writing a grant with each meeting of the committee. For now, this is the chore work that must be accomplished in order to make the restoration possible.

The Rumor Mill . . . Stay Tuned!

Is there a City of Rochester historical museum in our future? A suitable property (may we say ideal?) has come to the attention of RAHS and the City of Rochester. The property must be approved and the purchase negotiated – but we are closer

We've felt the need for a museum for a long time. Many Rochester area folks have collections, artifacts, photos, and documents they have been keeping for the day when we do have a City of Rochester Historic Museum.

The Latest on the Historic District . . .

The Rochester Historic District Study Commission, a subgroup of the Rochester Historic Commission, is currently studying ways and means to establish a historic district in the City of Rochester. The entire city must be included in the effort.

As part of the process, the commission is in the process of identifying and photographing houses and other structures that meet the historic guidelines.

Visit the RAHS online store — located at the web-address given below — We have books and other gifts available, that make thoughtful presents at holiday time — or any other time for that matter.

Something We Did That We Can No Longer Do —

Contributed by Mike Russell

My father, Ray Russell, was a collector of antique guns. In his collection there was a muzzle loading elephant rifle. It had a big bore and when shot was very loud. It was my dad's custom to shoot it December 31 to bring in the New Year. One particular New Years he was on duty with the police department. In keeping with the custom he took the elephant gun to work and at midnight he shot it. Unfortunately he put too much powder down the muzzle. The vibration blew out some windows at the 4th Street village office. Family friends who lived 5 miles away swore that they heard the blast and the recoil left a big bruise on his shoulder. Needless to say he was more careful in later years on the amount of powder poured down the muzzle.

Mike Russell Bringing in '60.

Never shooting a gun before, I didn't know the importance of holding it snug to the shoulder. When I pulled the trigger, it sent me sailing backwards into the front of the house, and I still remember the pain in the right shoulder. That was my first and last time I shot any kind of gun. Funny now, but definitely not then.

Have a Safe December 31st



This mural, created by local artist, Michael Paradise in the early 1990s, was a local landmark for a number of years. It was later removed to make way for an addition to the building that replaced the old St. James Hotel

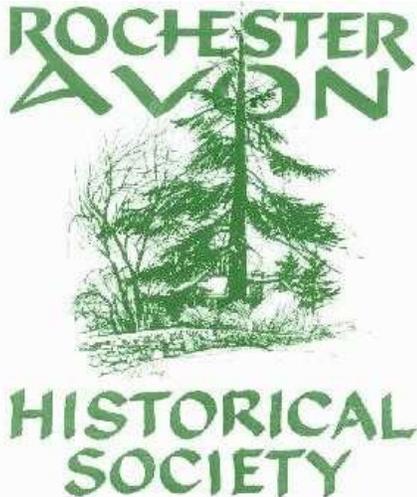
From the Editor to Members

If you are not receiving your newsletter online and would like to — please write to or phone the editor:

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(248) 375-0808

Also, write or phone editor if you have something you want us to cover. Time and place photos are welcome. May accept memoir from readership. Payment is a mailed copy of the newsletter and your byline. History related pieces, please.

Note: The online newsletter is, of course, in full color, enlargeable, printable, downloadable.



Rochester Avon Historical Society
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**Pride in
Preserving
the Past**